

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00958 112022Z

14

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 FBIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05

USPS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 OC-05 CCO-00 /044 W

----- 095222

R 111945Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6267

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH PROBLEM

REF USUN 837, 6386 AND STATE'S 055277 (USUN 4180)

1. REGRETTABLY, INVESTIGATIVE REPORT SENT BY DEPT SHEDS
NO NEW LIGHT ON WHAT HAPPENED TO LIBYAN POUCH TORN OPEN
AT JFK AIRPORT.

2. WHEN WE WROTE LIBYAN MISSION IN JUNE 1973 CONCERNING
A VERY SIMILAR COMPLAINT, WE STATED THAT THE LIBYAN DIPLO-
MATIC POUCH HAD FALLEN FROM A CARGO CART AND HAD BEEN
TORN AND MUTILATED WHEN DRAGGED ON THE PAVEMENT BY CARGO
CARTS. DETAILS WE HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED FROM TWA AND OTHER
INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITIES ON NEW LIBYAN POUCH INCIDENT
OF NOVEMBER 14, 1975, APPEAR TO CONCLUDE THAT (1) POUCH
FELL FROM CONTAINER ON WAY TO AIRCRAFT AND WAS TORN AND
RIPPED FROM HAVING BEEN DRAGGED ON PAVEMENT OR (2) WAS
CUT BY THIEVES WHO WERE LOOKING FOR VALUABLE ITEMS.

3. WE HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT BEFORE WE RESPOND
TO LIBYANS, FURTHER INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN
BY FBI IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF ACT
FOR PROTECTION OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS.

4. SOME OF QUESTIONS ASKED BY UN SECURITY OFFICER PRESENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00958 112022Z

WITH LIBYANS WHEN TORN POUCH WAS INITIALLY EXAMINED HAVE NOT

IN OUR OPINION, BEEN ADEQUATELY ANSWERED. THESE ARE
AS FOLLOWS:

(1) HOW COULD POUCH FALL OUT OF A SEALED ALUMINUM
CONTAINER?

(2) HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE FOR POUCH TO HAVE BEEN ON PAVED,
WELL-LIGHTED, FREQUENTLY PATROLLED ROADWAY FROM 20:00 HOURS
ON NOVEMBER 15, 1975 UNTIL 20:30 HOURS ON NOVEMBER 16,
1975 WITHOUT BEING OBSERVED?

(3) WHAT WAS THE CONDITION OF THE POUCH, AND CONTENTS
OF POUCH, WHEN IT WAS FOUND BY W.PENKEN, U.S. POSTAL
SECURITY OFFICER? WERE CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS OPENED AS
IS ALLEGED BY LIBYANS?

5. HOW CAN A RUBBER-TIRED VEHICLE RIDE OVER A CANVAS DIPLO-
MATIC POUCH AND TEAR AND MUTILATE IT? THIS IS SECOND
TIME SUCH A CLAIM HAS BEEN MADE.

6. FURTHER, IF THIEVES ACTUALLY CUT POUCH, WHAT ACTION,
IF ANY, HAS BEEN TAKEN BY PORT AUTHORITY POLICE TO
APPREHEND THOSE INVOLVED AND WHAT ARE RESULTS OF INVESTIGA-
TION PROMISED BY PORT AUTHORITY POLICE AT TIME OF INCIDENT?

7. WE BELIEVE A MORE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF POUCH
INCIDENT IS WARRANTED. LIBYANS EXPECT MORE THAN SAME
KIND OF ANSWER WE GAVE THEM IN 1973, PARTICULARLY, SINCE
LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVE AT JFK AIRPORT MUST BE AWARE THAT
CRUCIAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN.
WE ARE CONCERNED THAT INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO LIBYANS
COULD BRING FORTH RETALIATORY ACTIONS AGAINST
AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC POUCHES IN TRIPOLI.
BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC POUCHES, INVESTIGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, QUESTIONNAIRES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760093-0805
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaaciwt.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH PROBLEM
TAGS: PFOR, LY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006